CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended)

A method for production of a highly filled elastomeric compound comprising:

forming a highly filled elastomeric compound from an elastomeric resin wherein a filler comprises about [[15%]] 105% to about 500% by weight of the elastomeric resin; and

adding microsilica to the highly filled elastomeric compound in an amount of [[1]] 255% to 400% by weight of elastomeric resin as a modifier to improve processability, wherein the microsilica is particulate amorphous SiO_2 obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to SiO-gas and oxidized in vapor phase to form amorphous silica which contains at least 70% by weight silica (SiO_2) and has a specific density

of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm^3 and a surface area of 15 - 40 m^2/g, and has primary particles being substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15 μm;

wherein the elastomeric resin comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber (NR), ethylene-propylene-diene rubber (EPM and EPDM), styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR), polychloroprene rubber (PCP), acrylate rubber, NBR blended with polyvinyl chloride, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer and blends thereof.

5. (Currently Amended)

The method according to ~~claims~~ claim 4, wherein microsilica is added to the highly filled elastomeric compound in an amount of [[5]] 260% to 300% by weight of elastomeric resin.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended)

A method of using microsilica as a modifier to improve processability of a highly filled elastomeric compound having a filler content of about [[15%]] 105% to about 500% by weight of elastomeric resin, comprising a step of adding [[1]] 255% to

400% by weight of elastomeric resin of microsilica to said compound, wherein the microsilica is particulate amorphous SiO_2 obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to SiO-gas and oxidized in vapor phase to form amorphous silica, which contains at least 70% by weight silica (SiO_2) and has a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm^3 and a surface area of 15 - 40 m^2/g, and has primary particles being substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15 μm;

wherein the elastomeric resin comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber (NR), ethylene-propylene-diene rubber (EPM and EPDM), styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR), polychloroprene rubber (PCP), acrylate rubber, NBR blended with polyvinyl chloride, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer and blends thereof.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended)

The method for production of a highly filled elastomeric compound of claim 4 ~~wherein~~ wherein the elastomeric resin consists of a polymer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber (NR), ethylene-propylene-diene rubber (EPM and EPDM), styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile-butadiene

rubber (NBR), polychloroprene rubber (PCP), acrylate rubber, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer and blends thereof.

10. (Previously Presented)

The method of using microsilica as a modifier to improve processability of a highly filled elastomeric compound of claim 7, wherein the elastomeric resin consists of a polymer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber (NR), ethylene-propylene-diene rubber (EPM and EPDM), styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR), polychloroprene rubber (PCP), acrylate rubber, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer and blends thereof.